



WEDDINGS

at St. Lawrence Bovingdon

Congratulations on your forthcoming marriage. This guide is intended to help you through the various stages of planning your wedding service. It should be read in conjunction with the introductory letter and wedding pack sent to you by our Church Administrator.

You will also find the website www.yourchurchwedding.org full of useful information

1) Banns of Marriage

Your banns of marriage will be published at the 10.00 or 10.30 service at St. Lawrence on three consecutive Sundays within three months of your wedding. You are invited to attend our Sunday services at St. Lawrence both before and after your wedding.

2) Banns if one of you lives outside the Parish

If either of you lives outside Bovingdon parish you must approach the appropriate local parish church to ensure that the banns of marriage are read there too. The priest will give you a certificate of publication of banns of marriage which we must have (at or by the rehearsal) in order to conduct your wedding. A statutory fee is payable to that church.

3) A Printed Order of Service

We can produce an elegant, simple order of service for your wedding at a competitive price. If you are engaging a printer or producing your own service order please follow our template (including the copyright licensing number) and send us a draft copy before you go to press. Since it is particularly important that we check the words of hymns we can provide the correct words for you via email on request. Please bring all the copies to the rehearsal.

4) Music for your Wedding

Our Director of Music, Gillian Barrett (Tel: 01923 773296 e-mail gillmbarrett@outlook.com), will be happy to go through the music choices for your wedding. Please arrange to meet her at least two months ahead of your wedding. The best time to see her is after the 10.00 or 10.30 service on Sundays. Lists of often-requested music and hymns are printed towards the end of this booklet to help you begin your planning.

5) Photographs

Members of the congregation may take photographs of the arrival of the bride and the final procession from church, but not during the service itself. Your professional photographer may take posed photographs after the signing of the registers and - without flash - during hymns. Naturally, we seek to uphold the marriage service as an act of worship.

6) Confetti

If you have the opportunity to encourage your guests to bring biodegradable confetti, rather than metallic, please do so. We ask that it is thrown at a distance from the entrance to the church (this is usually done under the direction of the photographer).

EXTRACTS FROM THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

The Consent

The minister says to the bridegroom

[N], will you take [N] to be your wife?

Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her,
and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

He answers

I will.

The minister says to the bride

[N], will you take [N] to be your husband?

Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him,
and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

She answers

I will.

The minister says to the congregation

Will you, the friends and families of N & N support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come?

They reply

We will

The Marriage Vows

The bridegroom says to the bride (repeating after the minister).

I, [NN], take you, [NN], to be my wife,
to have and to hold from this day forward;
for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish,
till death us do part; according to God's holy law.
In the presence of God I make this vow.

The bride says to the bridegroom (repeating after the minister).

I, [NN], take you, [NN], to be my husband,
to have and to hold from this day forward;
for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish,
till death us do part; according to God's holy law.
In the presence of God I make this vow.

The giving of rings

The bridegroom says to the bride (repeating after the minister).

I give you this ring as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you,
within the love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The bride says identical words to the bridegroom
(repeating after the minister).

EXTRACTS FROM THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

Approved secular readings may also be added to the service and like the Bible readings, may be read either by the Minister or by members of your family or friends.

From the Old Testament

Genesis 1.26-28

Song of Solomon 2.10-13; 8.6,7

From the New Testament. Any approved translation may be used.

Matthew 5.1-10

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'

Matthew 7.21,24-end

Jesus said, 'Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord", will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

'Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.

'And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell - and great was its fall!'

Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

John 2.1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have

no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.'

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Philippians 4.4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Romans 12.1, 2, 9-13

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Further suggestions for readings may be found at www.yourchurchwedding.org

SUGGESTIONS FOR MUSIC AT YOUR WEDDING

At the entrance of the Bride :

- a) Bridal March from "Lohengrin" – Wagner
- b) The Prince of Denmark's March ("Trumpet Voluntary") - Clarke
- c) Trumpet Tune in D – Purcell
- d) Trumpet Tune (from Te Deum) – Charpentier
- e) Hornpipe from "Water Music" – Handel
- f) Arrival of the Queen of Sheba – Handel
- g) Chaconne - Pachelbel

During the Signing of the Registers :

- a) Jesu, joy of man's desiring – J.S. Bach
- b) Amazing Grace – D. Grant
- e) Ave Maria - Schubert
- f) Ave Maria - Gounod/Bach
- g) Panis Angelicus - C. Franck
- h) Love one another - Wesley
- i) The Lord is my Shepherd ("Vicar of Dibley") - Goodall
- j) Sheep May Safely Graze - Bach
- k) He shall feed his flock from "Messiah" - Handel

At the exit of the couple :

- a) Wedding March from Midsummer Night's Dream Mendelssohn
- c) Hornpipe from "Water Music" – Handel
- d) The Prince of Denmark's March ("Trumpet Voluntary") - Clarke
- e) Trumpet Tune in D – Purcell
- f) Arrival of the Queen of Sheba—Handel

We shall also be happy to discuss any special requests for music during the arrival of guests before the service.

All of the above are regularly chosen items, but we are very happy to discuss other requests.

The Director of Music will demonstrate these pieces on the organ at your meeting with her.

POPULAR HYMNS FOR YOUR WEDDING

All things bright and beautiful
Amazing Grace
And did those feet in ancient time (Jerusalem)
At the name of Jesus
Be thou my vision
Come to a wedding (to the tune: "Morning has broken")
Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
Father hear the prayer we offer
Give me joy in my heart
Guide me O thou Great Redeemer ("Bread of heaven")

I danced in the morning ("The Lord of the Dance")
Lead us, heavenly Father
Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy
Love Divine, all loves excelling
Make me a channel of your peace
Morning has broken (But see note below)
Now thank we all our God
O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end
O perfect love
O praise ye the Lord!
One more step along the world I go
Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven
The King of Love my Shepherd is or The Lord's my Shepherd
We come, dear Lord, to celebrate
We pledge to one another

There are many other hymns which are suitable for weddings.
Please do not feel limited to this list.

Note: Reproduction of Morning has Broken is illegal without paying a copy-right fee, currently £25.

THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Getting married is one of the most important decisions you will ever take, and it often encourages couples to think about the really important issues in life. To discover more about Christian spirituality and the way of faith, please feel free to come to any service at St.Lawrence. (If you already have young children, our 30 minute Family Praise service at 9.30am each Sunday is specifically geared for families such as yours.) Discussion groups and refresher courses are also run regularly. Please ask for the latest information.

CONTACTING US

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Church of England Weddings Website
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